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1929

# DAHLIAS!



# CURTIS REDFERN





**FOREWORD** The popularity of the Dahlia continues to grow.

The people of the Pacific Coast in particular have become decidedly Dahlia conscious. Through the courtesy of Radio Stations K P O, San Francisco and K G W, Portland, Oregon, it has been my privilege as President of The Dahlia Society of California to assist in this growth by the broadcasting of many talks on Dahlia Culture. The use of the radio as an avenue for publicity is unsurpassed and resulted in 1928 in the largest attendance ever had at the Pacific Coast Dahlia Shows.

The Dahlia as a garden and show flower has no equal—with a minimum of work is produced the maximum of gorgeous effect in an almost infinite variety of color, size, and form.

**California-Grown Dahlia Tubers** With no frost to fear in San Francisco my dahlias are planted early, grow slowly through the long cool foggy summer and die down naturally in the late fall, when, thoroughly matured, the clumps of tubers are dug. Rainfall is not depended upon for moisture, the plants being irrigated at regular intervals throughout the growing season. Seed production undoubtedly consumes a great deal of a plant's vitality as it is the supreme effort of any plant to perpetuate itself. I harvest just enough seeds for my own use, therefore, the strength for next year's growth is not drained from the tubers I offer you. They are capable of 100 per cent. performance in delivering the beauty it is their mission to produce. Only field grown tubers are offered.

**Terms:** Cash with order or before shipment. Absolutely no exception will be made to this rule. Shipment before April 1st, will be at purchaser's risk. Shipment by parcels post, insured, and prepaid.

**Roll of Honor** Mr. Derrill W. Hart of the American Home *Dahlia* Magazine is a national authority on Dahlias.

He judges at most of the large Eastern shows—New York, Trenton, Camden, Boston, Philadelphia, Newark, Baltimore, Red Bank, New Haven, and Short Hills.

Yearly in the December issue of the American Home Magazine he submits a Dahlia Roll of Honor. For any Dahlia to be placed on this Roll of Honor is an achievement and is, in itself, the highest recommendation. Fifteen of the dahlias listed in this catalog have achieved that honor; two of them are my own introductions: *Barbara Redfern* and *Richelieu*.

If not already a member, as one of its Vice-Presidents, I cordially invite you to join The American Dahlia Society. Send \$2.00 to Mr. Wm. Rathgeber, Secretary, 198 Norton Street, New Haven, Connecticut for your 1929 membership dues.

The word *beautiful* is worked overtime in most flower catalogs. All of the Dahlias listed herein have a superabundance of that almost indescribable quality and to repeat the word in the description of each variety would rob it of its meaning and make the reading of this catalog tiresome. Therefore, I do not use it at all.

Cordially yours,

December 5, 1928.

CURTIS REDFERN

## 1929 INTRODUCTION

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**Nell Gwyn**, (Redfern) Deep rose pink decorative.  
Tuber.....\$10.00

The cover illustration is a basket of Nell Gwyns, cut on September 23rd, almost a month after the San Francisco show season, and when most of our dahlias are either beginning to have open centers or have greatly diminished in size. These blooms were on the bushes during two of the hottest days recorded by our local Weather Bureau in seventy years—the 20th and 21st of September, yet they neither burned nor faded. Nell Gwyn was grown down the peninsula from San Francisco under entirely different soil and climatic conditions and the grower was most enthusiastic; he considers it one of the finest dahlias he has ever grown, BUT—

I sent it to a dahlia authority in the East, whose opinion I value very much and he reports: "Nell Gwyn did not do particularly well for me, although it bloomed freely. The color was not clear and in addition it had a tendency to show a green center. We had so much rain that it may have thrown this variety off of its stride. I want to try it again next year for you."

Maybe the rain did have something to do with its poor performance—then again, maybe it is destined to do well only on the Pacific Coast. A basket of well-grown Nell Gwyns is an arresting sight and I predict it will long be a favorite where the climate and soil conditions are suited to it.



RICHELIEU  
ON DERRILL W. HART'S 1928  
DAHLIA ROLL OF HONOR

**Richelieu**, (Redfern) A deep velvety red decorative.

Tuber ..... \$10.00

In his 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor, Mr. Derrill W. Hart makes the following statement about Richelieu: "One has to see this Dahlia growing to realize its true value. It is a large flower halfway between claret and royal maroon, wide petals and an upright grower. Shown very little in the East, but a variety of great promise."

Richelieu has plenty of IT—that combination of those rare qualities of charm, personality, and distinction that makes certain individuals and things irresistible—you can not help liking them. Words and photographic film fail to convey this IT quality—you get it only when in the presence of the flower itself. In color Richelieu is a deep velvety red, reminiscent of the old Jack Rose. The blooms face upward and the formation of the flower is best described as water-lily. Two professional photographers have tried to photograph it and I've also tried myself, but, on account of the dark color the result reminds one of the black sheet of paper hung in a photographic exhibition below which was the title: "Portrait study of an Ethiopian taken at midnight in a London fog in the dark of the moon". Richelieu will not photograph to advantage.

The flowers last a long time on the bushes and it is an incomparable cut flower. One of our leading San Francisco florists sends it to Los Angeles, 500 miles south of here.



BARBARA REDFERN  
ON DERRILL W. HART'S 1927 AND 1928  
DAHLIA ROLLS OF HONOR

**Barbara Redfern,** (Redfern) A rosy gold decorative.  
Tuber.....\$5.00

This fine dahlia appears on both the 1927 and 1928 Dahlia Rolls of Honor. From everywhere come glowing reports of its wonderful performance as a garden flower, exhibition variety, and for florists' use. At this year's shows the winning exhibits for decoratives usually included a Barbara Redfern, and it was a first-prize winner in its color section. In Los Angeles, where flowers are plentiful and very cheap, one grower receives \$3.00 a dozen for Barbara Redfern blooms. For cut-flower purposes it is a money-maker as it is a prolific bloomer, as many as 23 large flowers have been counted on one bush at one time. Many of its blooms will measure 12 inches in diameter.

The face of this mammoth flower is a glistening old gold in color; the reverse of the petals a delicate old rose. Both colors show at the same time, producing a decorative effect of great warmth and richness.

I can not too strongly recommend Barbara Redfern. It is undoubtedly one of the world's finest dahlias, whether for garden, exhibition, or cut flower purposes.

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#### Special Offers of Redfern Introductions

A field grown tuber of Nell Gwyn, Richelieu, and Barbara Redfern, listing \$25.00 will be sent for \$20.00.

A field grown tuber of Richelieu and Barbara Redfern, listing \$15.00 will be sent for \$12.50.

*DECORATIVE DAHLIAS are double flowers, full to the center early in the season, some flat and others ball-shaped, with broad, flat, more or less loosely arranged petals the tips of which are broad or rounded. All prices are for strong field grown tubers.*

**Varieties Underscored are Roll of Honor Dahlias**

<b>Amun Ra</b>	A stunning decorative of copper and bronze with a reverse of scarlet. A gold medal variety with a wonderful record as a prize winner.	\$1.00
<b><u>Barbara Redfern</u></b>	See page 9 for description. On the 1927 and 1928 Dahlia Rolls of Honor.	\$5.00
<b>Black Jack</b>	A decorative of deepest maroon; a very large flower.	\$2.00
<b>Carl Larson</b>	A very fine decorative of great depth; apricot and salmon shades.	\$7.50
<b>Ealge Rock Beauty</b>	A refined combination of cream and pink.	\$5.00
<b><u>Elinor Vandevere</u></b>	Satiny rose pink. A winner everywhere. On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor.	\$1.00
<b><u>Elite Glory</u></b>	One of the largest dahlias ever introduced. On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor. Flame red in color.	\$3.50
<b>Emily C. Renwick</b>	Medium sized flower of iridescent rose pink.	\$2.00
<b><u>Faith Garibaldi</u></b>	A very large silvery pink dahlia; several times a gold medal winner, and on the 1927 Dahlia Roll of Honor.	\$2.00
<b>Fire Chief</b>	A brilliant scarlet flower of large size.	\$7.50
<b>Flamelick</b>	A brilliant flame red; form very attractive; large.	\$7.50

**Flaming Meteor** Another scarlet decorative that has proved very desirable for both exhibition and florists' use. \$3.00

**Golden Dream** Large well formed flower of pure gold. \$7.50

**Golden Jubilee** Another gold colored flower; low growing bush. \$2.00

**E. E. Handbury** A bi-color; red and white. \$3.50

**Islam Patrol** Crimsn, tipped gold. Always in demand \$1.50

**Jane Cowl** A sensational dahlia. One bloom won two prizes at the 1928 Portland Show, judged the best and also the largest flower in the Show. Also awarded Gold Medal of Dahlia Society of New Jersey at the San Francisco show for the best New Jersey dahlia exhibited. Bronze buff and pure gold in color. Very large in size and showy in form. Roll of Honor Dahlia. \$10.00

**Joy** A fine lavender decorative; flowers face upward on stems. A 1927 Roll of Honor Dahlia. \$7.50

**J. W. Davies** A large flower of two tones of cerise. \$2.00

**Kittie Dunlap** American Beauty Rose color. One of the most dependable decoratives at show time. \$1.00

**La Roda** A silvery pink dahlia of large size; the blooms face upward. A 1928 Roll of Honor Dahlia. \$10.00

**Marmion** A pure golden yellow flower with bronzy suffusion. One of the largest dahlias in cultivation; a sensation everywhere. On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor. \$2.50

<b>M. H. De Young</b>	Pure old gold. A large attractive flower.	\$4.00
<b>Mordella</b>	A bright apricot-buff flower of pleasing formation.	\$1.50
<b>Mrs. Eleanor Martin</b>	A very large flower; in color mulberry suffused with gold.	\$2.00
<b>Nell Gwyn</b>	See description on page 5.	\$10.00
<b>Richelieu</b>	On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor. Deepest shade of velvety red. See page 7 for full description.	\$10.00
<b>Rookwood</b>	A bright cerise rose colored flower of great refinement.	\$2.00
<b>Rosea Elegans</b>	A medium sized pink flower. An improved Delice originated in England.	\$1.50
<b>San Clemente</b>	A red dahlia of fine formation.	\$7.50
<b>Shudow's Lavender</b>	A splendid variety that has been on the market for several years, yet of such outstanding worth that Mr. Hart, in the Dahlia Roll of Honor for 1928 lists it among the varieties that have made permanent places for themselves.	\$2.00
<b>Susan Tevis</b>	A large deep lilac flower.	\$2.00
<b>Trentonian</b>	A most delightful blending of old gold, amber, and coppery orange. Another dahlia on the 1928 Roll of Honor in the permanent section.	\$2.00
<b>Violet Wonder</b>	On the 1928 Roll of Honor. Just what its name implies. Violet in color and wonderful in size and appearance.	\$10.00

*CACTUS DAHLIAS* The English and American types resemble chrysanthemums. The Hybrid type is fully double with petals shorter and broader than the first two named.

**Varieties Underscored are Roll of Honor Dahlias**

<b><u>Ambassador</u></b>	Soft amber with shades of amber pink. On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor in the section listing dahlias that have won permanent places on account of their high quality.	\$1.00
<b>Amber Glow</b>	(American) Bright yellow, prolific bloomer.	\$1.50
<b>Ballet Girl</b>	Popular wherever dahlias are grown. True English in type. Orange edged white in color.	\$1.50
<b>Chantecler</b>	Hybrid, lavender pink in color.	\$5.00
<b>Empire</b>	(American) Raspberry red; very large flower.	\$2.00
<b><u>Edna Ferber</u></b>	Hybrid, glistening coral and old gold. On the 1927 and 1928 Dahlia Rolls of Honor. One of the best dahlias ever introduced.	\$5.00
<b>Judge Shinn</b>	Hybrid, yellow, very fine.	\$7.50
<b>Lake Pend Oreille</b>	Hybrid, a flower of great refinement. Salmon pink and pale gold. Large blooms.	\$5.00
<b>La Mexicana</b>	Hybrid, burnt orange and copper.	\$5.00
<b>Molly Malone</b>	Hybrid, several tons of yellow.	\$7.50
<b>Mrs. Alfred Hughes</b>	English incurved white; originated in England.	\$1.50
<b><u>My Maryland</u></b>	Hybrid, pinkish lavender. On the 1928 Dahlia Roll of Honor. One of the finest dahlias introduced in late years.	\$10.00

<b>Nichu</b>	Hybrid, yellow; a very prolific bloomer.	
		\$2.00
<b>Rollo Boy</b>	Hybrid, very large flowers of amber and old gold. A winner of numerous prizes.	\$2.00
<b>Sidney Jones</b>	English type; deep pink with yellow suffusion at the base of the petals.	\$1.50
<b>Zante</b>	Hybrid, a deep gold suffused with apricot and pink tints. A very handsome flower.	
		\$2.50

I have most of the English Type cactus varieties, but there is not room to list them here. Prices on request.

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**PEONY VARIETIES** *Semi-double flowers showing an open center and usually having an inner row of short petals that are curved or twisted.*

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<b>Elizabeth Boston</b>	Scarlet tipped gold.	\$2.00
<b>Gorgeous Elizabeth</b>	Red and gold.	\$5.00
<b>Ione Haslam</b>	Gold.	\$5.00
<b>John Meussdorffer</b>	Scarlet; flowers may assume decorative habit in the East.	\$7.50
<b>Betty Bird</b>	A Hybrid Show gold medal variety. Clear salmon pink in color. Stock of this attractive dahlia is limited.	\$3.50

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## NOVELTIES FOR 1929

## "CHARMS" DAHLIAS from England.

While the majority of dahlia enthusiasts—those in whom the show complex predominates—consider bigness of bloom all important, there are many people to whom these specimens of bigness, of use chiefly to be displayed on a show table, make no appeal for favor.

To this discerning minority flowers must serve for garden effect and house decoration. It is here that small and medium sized dahlias enter the picture.

True, the pompon type has done yeoman service in winning people away from the large varieties, but its prim and formal formation has left something still to be desired.

From Old England now comes a new type of miniature peony and decorative dahlias that apparently was made expressly to supply those qualities of gracefulness and airiness so necessary to artistic flower arrangements and also having a profuse blooming habit that makes them a happy addition for garden effect.

The blooms are carried upright on stems so long that the blossoms resemble brilliantly colored butterflies hovering over the bushes. The colorings are so bright and unusual in their combinations that they defy accurate description. No attempt has been made to do the impossible and the originator's descriptions are used. The stock in the United States is very limited, and the special permit under which I imported them requires that a sufficient number of each variety be retained for replenishing my own stock. Therefore, please give second choice when ordering. So far as the Charms varieties are concerned it will be "first ordered, first served".

Plant Charms dahlias as you do pompons. Do not disbud them. Strong field grown tubers only are offered. The price is \$2.00 each, NET.

<b>Angelina</b>	Coppery-orange-flame, with crimson base; a delightful color; erect and very striking.
<b>Aureola</b>	Golden-apricot; distinct; free blooming habit.
<b>Agalia</b>	Orange-fawn, overlaid salmon; stiff stems. Fine.

<b>Chamelon</b>	Ground color orange-gold; suffused violet at petals.
<b>Chrissie</b>	Soft rose-pink self.
<b>Charmer</b>	Orange-chestnut at base, lightening to orange-salmon toward center; one of the best.
<b>Carine</b>	Deep orange; a very effective variety.
<b>Crimson Glow</b>	Intense rich deep crimson; effective color. Free blooming.
<b>Dazzle</b>	Dazzling scarlet, retaining its color all season.
<b>Electron</b>	Ground color yellow, suffused vivid orange, shaded violet at times.
<b>Elma D. Cook</b>	The finest clear yellow; exceedingly free blooming.
<b>Fairy</b>	Fawn; suffused pink; tipped white.
<b>Glory</b>	Rosy fawn heavily suffused crimson, large lotus-shaped flowers on erect stems.
<b>Helen</b>	A glorious pink; quite distinct; free blooming, long erect stems.
<b>Lady Mary Hope</b>	A small variety, very distinct; florets fluted and turned back; amber and orange; one of the best.
<b>Lovely</b>	Bright rose-pink; very free and good.
<b>Lucina</b>	Apricot-buff, changing to reddish-salmon; free blooming.
<b>Mac</b>	Yellow suffused salmon, deepening to salmon-rose; very free blooming; good long stems; one of the best.
<b>Mrs. Skevington</b>	Amaranth-pink on orange, base shaded orange; free blooming; long stems.

<b>Mary</b>	Deep maroon, almost black, very free blooming on long erect stems; distinct.
<b>Norah Bell</b>	Scarlet-flame on yellow base; one of the most striking; very free flowering; erect stems.
<b>Pink Pearl</b>	A lovely pink; exceptionally free blooming, one of the best for bedding; wiry growing; a wonderful variety for cutting.
<b>Radium</b>	One of the finest; crimson-scarlet on clear golden-yellow base.
<b>Sweet</b>	A lovely shade of pink, with crimson zone; very fine. Free blooming.
<b>Mrs. Hecht</b>	An American Charms variety; each petal striped old gold and deep crimson.

*POMPON DAHLIAS* *The small ball-shaped type that is universally popular for garden effect, cutting, and exhibition.*

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<b>Anna Kristina</b> , golden yellow, deeper colored at center.	\$1.00
<b>Bantam</b> , brownish red.....	.75
<b>Darkest of All</b> , maroon, almost black .....	.50
<b>Dark Eye</b> , white, deep lavender center.....	.50
<b>Girlie</b> , pure lilac .....	.50
<b>Glow</b> , old rose.....	.50
<b>Goldie</b> , gold .....	.50
<b>Hazel Dell</b> , pink, cerise edge.....	1.00
<b>Helen Anita</b> , small, lavender .....	1.00
<b>Joe Fette</b> , pure white.....	.50
<b>Johnny</b> , maroon .....	.50
<b>Leola</b> , soft pink.....	1.00
<b>Lilias</b> , pinkish mauve.....	.50
<b>Little David</b> , deep orange .....	.50
<b>Lloyd Hickman</b> , old rose .....	.50
<b>Margy</b> , flaming red.....	.75
<b>Mars</b> , scarlet.....	.50
<b>Mary Munns</b> , deep fuschia lavender.....	1.00
<b>Mike</b> , burnt orange.....	.75
<b>Nanky Poo</b> , new, golden yellow, brownish center.....	1.50
<b>Nerisa</b> , pink, true stock .....	.50
<b>Rosea</b> , bluish lilac.....	.50
<b>Tommy Keith</b> , cardinal red, tipped white.....	.50
<b>Yellow Gem</b> , pure yellow, the best of its color.....	.50



